

DESCRIPTION OF A HITHERTO UNDESCRIBED SPECIES
OF SHARK FROM INVESTIGATOR STRAIT.

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Scyllium vincenti, sp. nov.

This species belongs to the group which has the nasal valves not confluent and without cirrus. The interspace between the nasal valves is about as wide as the flaps, which are turned up at their posterior margin. A short labial fold round the angle of the mouth, each about one-fifth of the length of the jaw. Teeth small, with a long median cusp and a small cusp on each side. Gill openings narrow, the first the largest, the following smaller, the last one only half the length of the first; the last two are situated above the base of the pectorals. The first dorsal has its origin behind the middle of the total length. Both dorsals are of about equal length. The origin of the anal is a little behind the first dorsal and terminates about the middle of the second dorsal. The lower caudal lobe originates about opposite the termination of the second dorsal. The base of the ventrals at their posterior margin is opposite the origin of the first dorsal. The ventrals terminate in a point. The caudal has a notch at three-quarters of its length and terminates in a rounded flap. The skin is very finely chagreened and glossy; the dermal denticles are three cuspid and very finely grooved. The colour is a reddish-brown above and on the sides, with indistinct darker crossbars, which are widest on the back. The head is uniformly dark-brown above. The rest of the trunk carries scattered, small, and indistinct whitish spots. The fins are darkest in the centre, but their margin is whitish. Under side, dirty white. The largest specimen is about 18 in. long. The first specimen I obtained from a fisherman, who caught it near the northern shore of Kangaroo Island while fishing for schnapper.